

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) A high activity phytase-containing granulate having increased pelleting stability comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least 15% (w/w) of starch;

(b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and

(c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram;

wherein said granulate is prepared by extrusion.

19. (Previously presented) A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram and having increased pelleting stability comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14, 000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of starch and at least one divalent cation.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

22. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or β -glucanase.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

27. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.
28. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.
- 29.-30. (Canceled).
31. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:
[[a]] the granulate according to claim 18.
32. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.
33. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.
34. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with said granulate.
35. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substance(s) or ingredient(s).
- 36-40. (Canceled).
41. (Previously presented) A composition comprising:
a granulate according to claim 19.
42. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 41 which is an edible feed composition.
43. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 41 which is an animal feed.
44. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 41, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with said granulate.
45. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

46. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 45 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.
47. (Canceled).
48. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 18 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and or β -glucanase.
49. (Canceled).
50. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.
51. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.
52. (Previously presented) The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.